ATLAS

RAWHIDE KID

HE SHARES HIS SADDLE WITH DANGER!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

RAWHIDE KID

NO. 7

10¢

ALL BRAND NEW TALES!

STARRING: THE RAWHIDE KID IN "TRAPPED!"

RAWHIDE KID FACES A GRIM "SHOWDOWN!"

Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was

BEFORE

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY YOU Can do *ALL I did!*

I gained **25** Terrific LBS. of **HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES** all over!

I improved my **HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%**

I won **NEW STRENGTH** for money-making work! for WINNING at all SPORTS!

I won **NEW POPULARITY** Won NEW FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS

"I'm PROUD to be seen with Jim NOW! Everybody admires his build," says Nellie. "Jim can lift the front of a 2700 lb. car. He amazes his friends!"

You'll be A Real ATHLETE in ALL SPORTS Soon after YOU mail Coupon.

Jim is a WINNER in ALL SPORTS NOW. YOU will be, too, soon.

COME ON, PAL, NOW YOU give me **10** PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR OWN HOME like Jim did and I'll give YOU A NEW HE-MAN BODY for your OLD SKELETON FRAME

How did I do ALL This? I mailed the Coupon and got These **5** PICTURE-PACKED HE-MAN COURSES Which YOU can NOW get FREE

BEFORE $1 PRICE GOES BACK Millions Sold for $1

GET ALL 5 FREE

1 HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY CHEST By GEORGE F. JOWETT

2

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM By GEORGE F. JOWETT 3

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK By GEORGE F. JOWETT 4

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY GRIP By GEORGE F. JOWETT 5

HOW TO MOLD MIGHTY LEGS By GEORGE F. JOWETT

AMAZING SECRETS How to WIN MUSCLES like IRON NERVES of STEEL World's Great EXPERT Tells You How YOU Can BECOME An All-Around ALL-AMERICAN HE-MAN in 10 MINUTES of FUN A DAY IN YOUR HOME PHOTO BOOK

"Congratulations, John! At last you mailed the coupon as EVERY MAN should. Soon You'll be as big and strong as I am," says Jim Norman to John Luckus

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong. Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!

YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST. Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened. From head to heels you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED. You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle.

LAST CHANCE - ALL FREE COUPON

1. FIVE COURSES 2. MUSCLE METER 3. Photo Book of STRONG MEN

Dept. M A-62

Tell Me How To WIN $100, etc.

"Jowett Courses greatest in World for Building All-Around HE-MEN" — S. F. Kelley Physical Director

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.

Dear George: Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter, plus all 5 HE-MAN Building Courses: 1 How to Build a Mighty Chest. 2 How to Build a Mighty Arm. 3 How to Build a Mighty Grip. 4. How to Build a Mighty Back. 5. How to Build Mighty Legs. Now all in One Volume "How to become a Mighty HE-MAN." ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C.O.D.'s)

NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

SAVES you YEARS and DOLLARS!!!

Hi Pal! Win $100 as I just did!

YOU CAN WIN a BIG 15" SILVER CUP as I just did! with YOUR NAME engraved on it!

JIM NORMAN

AFTER

He Mailed Coupon Below is Cleveland

BEFORE

He Mailed Coupon

90 lb. Skeleton He says, I gained 70 lbs. of mighty muscle

Mail the "ALL FREE" coupon get this "AMAZING SECRETS" Photo Book

You'll LOOK, FEEL, ACT, like A Real HE-MAN! Win Women and Men Friends. Win in Sports! Win Promotion, Praise, Popularity.

This BOOK will also show You HOW YOU CAN WIN $100.00 and a BIG 15" tall SILVER TROPHY (Your Name On It)

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

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THE RAWHIDE KID

THE GOLD LAY IN A GLITTERING HEAP ON THE TABLE BELOW! ONE QUICK GLANCE TOLD *THE RAWHIDE KID* THAT HERE WAS THE FORTUNE STOLEN FROM THE SAGE CITY BANK AND THE MEN WHO HAD STOLEN IT!

"THE LOST MINE!"

DICK AYERS

H-590

THEIR VOICES REACHED UP TO *THE RAWHIDE KID* IN A LOW MUMBLE ...

CAN'T MAKE OUT EXACTLY WHAT THEY'RE SAYING! I'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER SOMEHOW!

THE ROTTING FRAME OF THE WINDOW CREAKED AND A SLIVER OF GLASS TINKLED DOWN ...

THAR'S SOMEBODY UP THERE!

YEAH... I SEE HIM!

THE ANCIENT SKYLIGHT SAGGED AND SUDDENLY CRASHED DOWNWARD UNDER THE WEIGHT OF *THE KID*...

THE RAWHIDE KID HIT HARD AMONG THE SPLINTERING GLASS AND SHATTERED TIMBERS...

AND THEN HE WAS ON HIS FEET LIKE A CAT...

THIS'LL STOP YUH!

THERE'S NO TIME FER ANY MORE ROUGH STUFF! TIE HIM UP, LAFE! WE GOT RIDIN' TO DO!

I SURE MESSED UP THAT PARTY! GOT TO REACH THAT STOVE AND TRY TO BURN THESE THONGS OFF!

MEANWHILE, BACK AT *THE RAWHIDE KID'S* HOMESTEAD...

I'LL LEAVE THIS NOTE FOR KID, SO HE'LL KNOW WHERE WE ARE! HOW DO YOU SPELL "TREASURE," TAD?

HMMM... MUST BE *T-R-E-S*... GOSH, I DUNNO!

THAT OUGHT TO DO IT, TAD! WELL, LET'S GO!

IT'S SURE A PURTY NOTE, RANDY!

"ME AND TAD HARMON HAS GONE TREZOOR HUNTIN UP AT PANNERS' CRIK. RANDY—"

AN HOUR LATER, AT PANNERS' CREEK...

RECKON THE OLD-TIMERS DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH AROUND HERE! LET'S EXPLORE THE HILLS, TAD!

GOOD IDEA! MAYBE WE'LL FIND A SOUVENIR OR SOMETHING!

HEY! LOOK AT THIS! MAYBE SOMETHING'S UNDER IT! LET'S PICK IT UP!

THINK WE CAN? IT SURE LOOKS HEAVY!

GOSH! AN OLD MINE SHAFT! ARE YOU GAME TO GO DOWN, TAD?

I AM — IF YOU ARE, RANDY!

DOWN THEY WENT, CAUTIOUSLY, HESITANTLY... BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE NO BOTTOM TO THE OLD SHAFT...

THIS IS AS FAR AS WE OUGHT TO GO, RANDY!

JUST A LITTLE MORE AND THEN WE'LL GO BACK UP!

SUDDENLY...

GRAB 'EM!

HUH?

MEANWHILE, AFTER BREAKING FREE...

GONE TREASURE HUNTING! IT ISN'T SAFE FOR THE BOYS TO BE OUT WITH THOSE SIDEWINDERS LOOSE! I BETTER BRING 'EM BACK!

AN HOUR LATER...

IT'S THEIR TRACKS ALL RIGHT! I'LL BET THOSE SCAMPS WERE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO GO DOWN THERE!

THE RAWHIDE KID HAD DESCENDED HALFWAY DOWN WHEN...

VOICES... AND THEY'RE *NOT* BOYS' VOICES!

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THEM, FARGO?

DUNNO! WE COULD HAVE HOLED UP HERE FOR A YEAR, BUT SOMEBODY WILL BE SURE TO COME LOOKIN' FOR THESE YOUNGSTERS!

YOU'RE RIGHT, FARGO... SOMEBODY'S LOOKIN' FOR THEM AND *FOUND* THEM, TOO!

WHAT!?! GET HIM, BOYS!

YOU'VE USED THAT GUN FOR THE LAST TIME!

LATER...

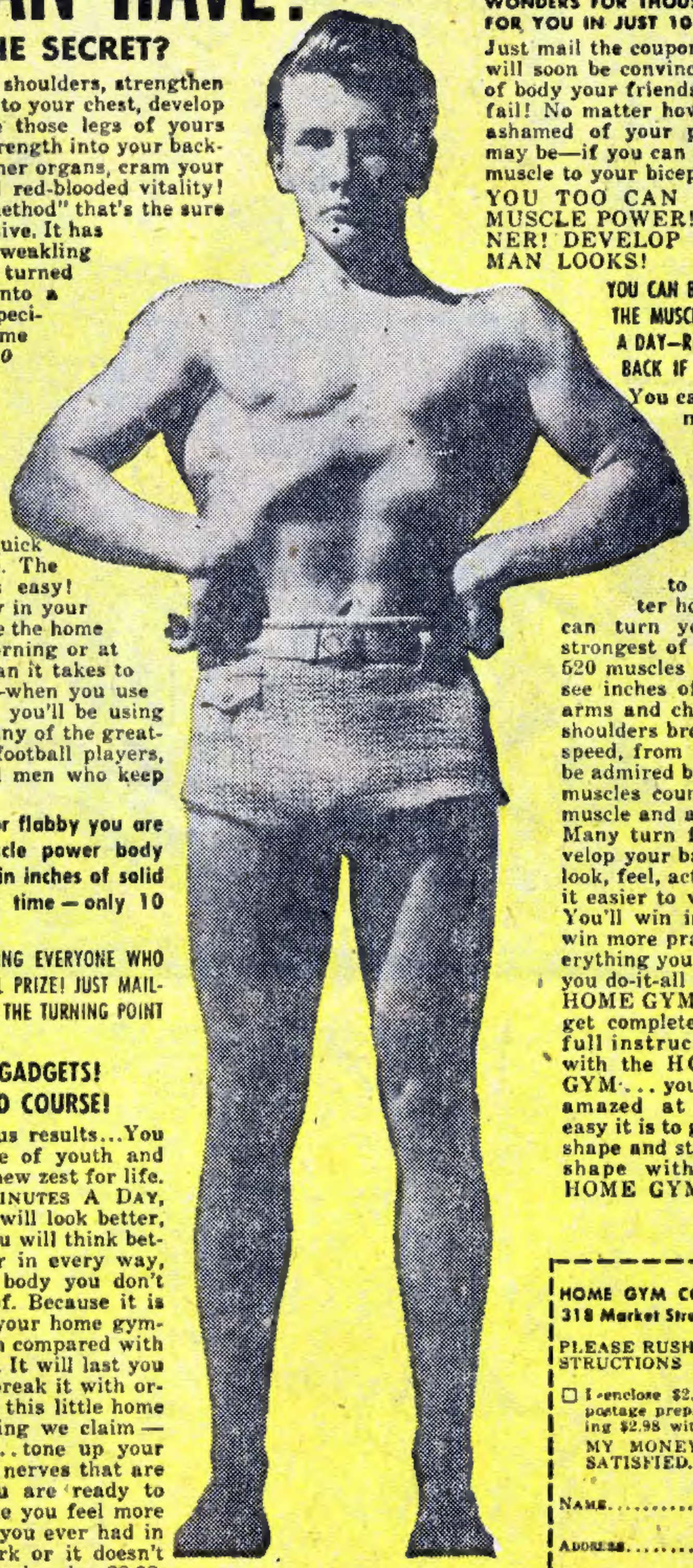
GOSH, AND WE THOUGHT SURE WE'D FIND GOLD DOWN IN THAT SHAFT, KID!

YOU *DID*, RANDY... TWENTY-THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH... BUT IT WAS STOLEN FROM THE SAGE CITY BANK, AND *WE'RE* GOING TO *RETURN* IT!

THE END

HERE IS THE KIND OF HE-MAN BODY YOU CAN HAVE!

WHAT'S THE SECRET?



You can broaden your shoulders, strengthen your back; add inches to your chest, develop a vise-like grip, make those legs of yours powerful, shoot new strength into your backbone, exercise those inner organs, cram your body full of vigor and red-blooded vitality! The new "home gym method" that's the sure best and most inexpensive. It has changed many a 90 lb. weakling to a he-man. It has turned many a skinny boy into a marvelous physical specimen. It can do the same for you! *No $50.00 courses. No expensive gadgets.* You simply use the inexpensive home gym which helps you use the dormant muscle power in your own body. You will watch it increase in double quick time into solid muscle. The home gym method is easy! Only 10 minutes a day in your own home! You can use the home gym method in the morning or at night for no longer than it takes to shave or get dressed—when you use the home gym method you'll be using the method used by many of the greatest athletes, used by football players, wrestlers, fighters and men who keep in trim!

No matter how skinny or flabby you are the amazing new muscle power body builder can help you gain inches of solid muscle in double quick time — only 10 minutes a day!

THE HOME GYM IS SOMETHING EVERYONE WHO WANTS A BETTER BUILD WILL PRIZE! JUST MAILING THE COUPON MAY MEAN THE TURNING POINT IN YOUR LIFE!

NO EXPENSIVE GADGETS! NO $30 TO $100 COURSE!

You will get miraculous results...You will keep that sparkle of youth and you will experience a new zest for life. All it needs is 10 MINUTES A DAY, only 10 minutes. You will look better, you will feel better, you will think better, you will be better in every way, and you will have a body you don't have to be ashamed of. Because it is so simple the cost of your home gymnasium is trivial, when compared with what it can do for you. It will last you a lifetime. You can't break it with ordinary use. Remember this little home gym must do everything we claim — circulate your blood...tone up your muscles — relax those nerves that are so keyed up that you are ready to scream — it must make you feel more pep and vitality than you ever had in your life. It must work or it doesn't cost you a penny. Full price olny $2.98.

SOLD ON A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE — ONLY $2.98. MAIL COUPON NOW!

YOU MAIL THE COUPON BELOW AND YOU CAN PROVE TO YOURSELF YOU CAN BE A NEW MAN! THE SECRET METHOD CALLED THE "*HOME GYM METHOD*" HAS DONE WONDERS FOR THOUSANDS. HERE'S WHAT IT WILL DO FOR YOU IN JUST 10 MINUTES A DAY!

Just mail the coupon below, then in 10 minutes you will soon be convinced that you can have the kind of body your friends admire—there's no cost if you fail! No matter how old or young you are or how ashamed of your present physical condition you may be—if you can flex your arm you can add solid muscle to your biceps in amazingly quick time!

YOU TOO CAN BE TOUGH! GAIN REAL MUSCLE POWER! BE AN ALL AROUND WINNER! DEVELOP NEW STRENGTH AND HE MAN LOOKS!

YOU CAN BROADEN YOUR SHOULDERS—STRENGTHEN THE MUSCLES THAT COUNT, IN ONLY 10 MINUTES A DAY—RIGHT IN YOUR OWN HOME—YOUR MONEY BACK IF YOU FAIL!

You can gain handsome power packed muscles all over! Improve your he-man looks 1000%. You can win new strength for money-making work! For winning at all sports! You'll be admired by everyone! You'll turn your old skeleton frame into a he-man body. You'll be on the road to being big and strong! No matter how skinny or flabby you are you can turn yourself from a wreck to the strongest of strong...You can develop your 620 muscles and gain confidence...you will see inches of mighty muscle added to your arms and chest...you'll see your back and shoulders broadened, you'll gain size, power, speed, from your head to your toes...You'll be admired by all...You'll be a winner where muscles count! Many gain up to 60 lbs. of muscle and add inches to chest and arms... Many turn fat into muscles...You can develop your back, your grip, your legs—you'll look, feel, act, like a real he-man. You'll find it easier to win women and men friends... You'll win in sports, win promotion, you'll win more praise and popularity! You get everything you need in one compact package—you do-it-all in just 10 minutes a day, with the HOME GYM. You get complete and full instructions with the HOME GYM... you'll be amazed at how easy it is to get in shape and stay in shape with the HOME GYM.

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MY MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED IF NOT SATISFIED.

NAME.....

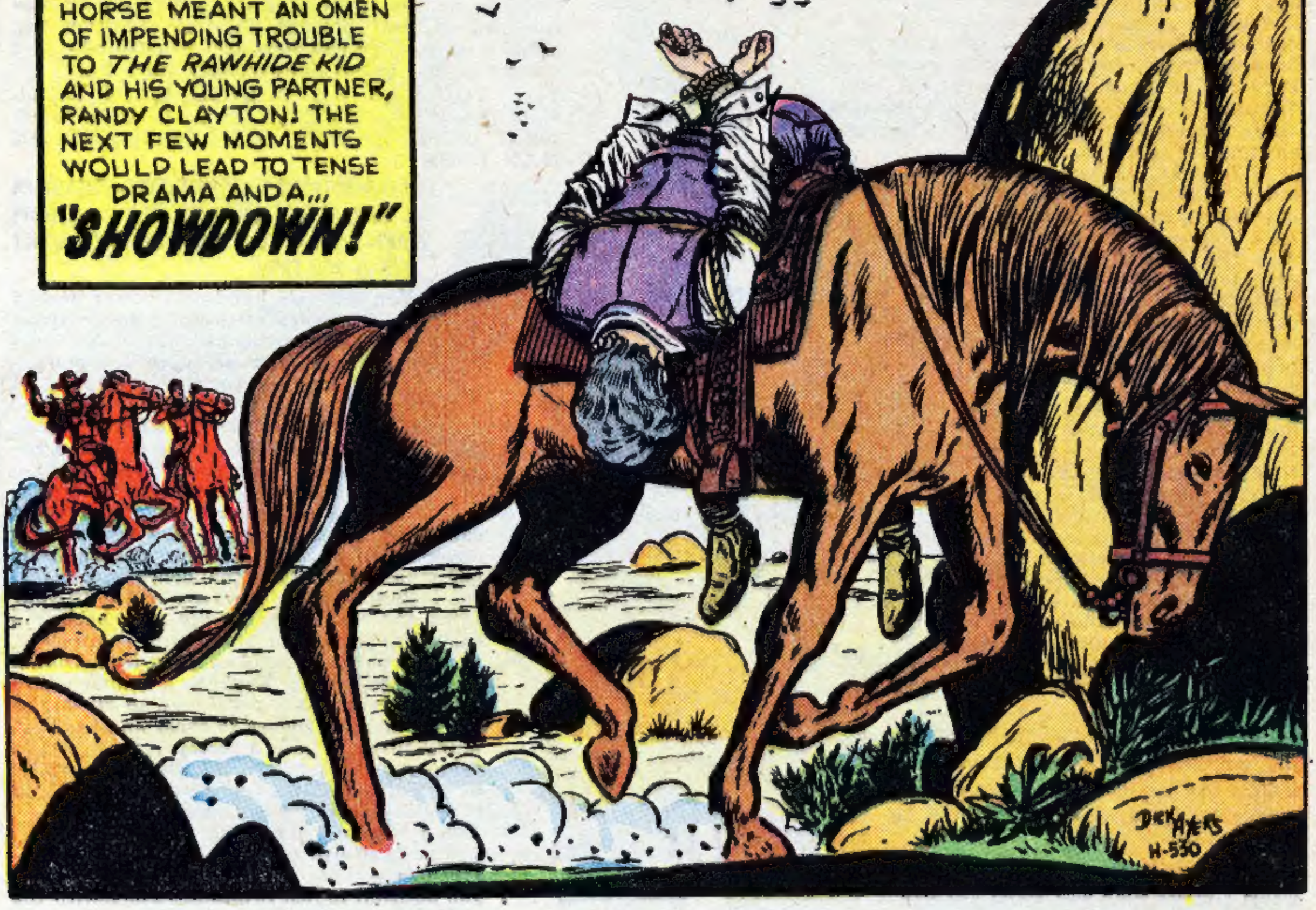
ADDRESS.....

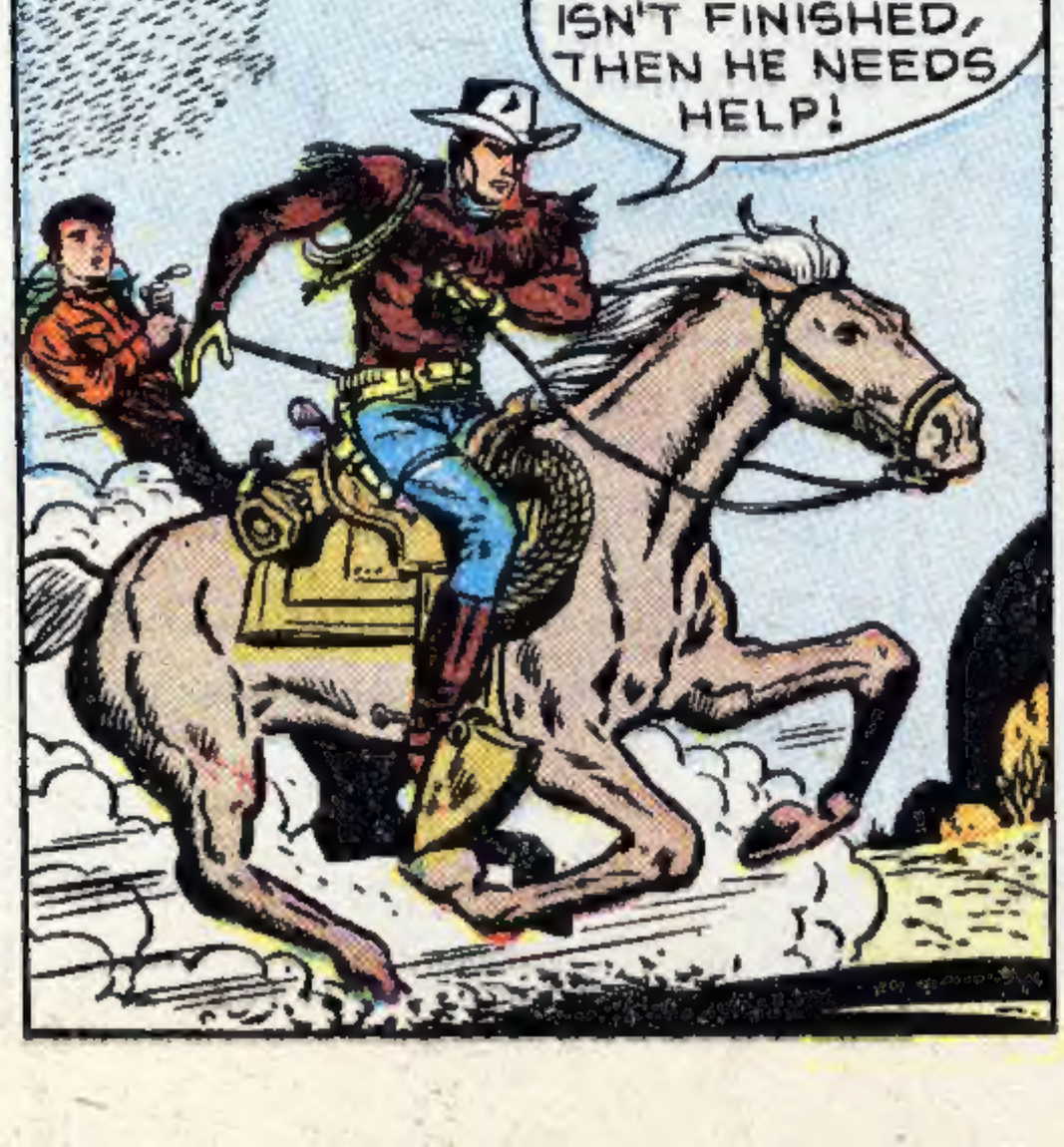
CITY.....ZONE.....STATE.....

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

THE RAWHIDE KID

THE SPECTACLE OF A MAN STRAPPED TO THE BACK OF A HORSE MEANT AN OMEN OF IMPENDING TROUBLE TO *THE RAWHIDE KID* AND HIS YOUNG PARTNER, RANDY CLAYTON! THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS WOULD LEAD TO TENSE DRAMA AND A... **"SHOWDOWN!"**





A LITTLE AT A TIME, RANDY!

GOSH, HE'S BRUISED UP REAL BAD!

WHERE AM I? I SEE YOU NOW! GO ON AN' FINISH THE JOB, YOU BUZZARDS!

EASY NOW, AMIGO! WE JUST FOUND YOU ROAMING AROUND! WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU!

I'M ALL RIGHT NOW! I'LL GO BACK AN' FACE HASKINS!

YOU WON'T GET FAR, MISTER! YOU COULDN'T PULL A GUN FROM ITS HOLSTER, LET ALONE FIGHT ANYONE!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! I GOT TIME! I'LL GET MENDED UP AN' SETTLE WITH HIM LATER!

LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE CABIN, RANDY!

THAT EVENING, AFTER A REFRESHING MEAL AND SOME MUCH-NEEDED REST...

EVERYTHING I WORKED FOR IS GONE! THE RANCH ISN'T IMPORTANT, BUT KNOWIN' MY SON IS WORKIN' FOR HASKINS JUST ABOUT KILLS ME!

DID YOUR SON *SEE* HASKINS AND HIS MEN ROUGH YOU UP?

I'M NOT SURE! I CAN'T BELIEVE JIM WOULD LET THEM DO THAT! BUT I KNOW HE WAS THERE!

HALFORD, NO MATTER HOW LOW YOUR SON HAS SUNK, I DON'T THINK HE'D STAND BY AND SEE HIS FATHER MISTREATED!

WE WERE CLOSE, JIM AND ME! HE GOT INTO HASKINS' DEBT BY FOOLISH GAMBLING!

THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ANGLE TO THAT STORY, HALFORD!

I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY HERE WITH RANDY WHILE I MOSEY INTO TOWN AND TAKE A LOOK AROUND!

IT'S DECENT OF YOU TO TROUBLE YOURSELF, KID, BUT DON'T GET YOURSELF INTO A JAM ON MY ACCOUNT!

LATER, IN SHOTGUN CITY'S NOTORIOUS GAMBLING HALL...

THERE'S A BRONC BUSTER INSIDE ASKIN' QUESTIONS ABOUT HALFORD! YOU WANT HIM THROWN OUT, FARO?

NOT YET! I'LL TAKE A LOOK AT HIM! DON'T LET YOUNG HALFORD SEE HIM!

I UNDERSTAND YOU BEEN ASKIN' ABOUT A RANNY NAMED HALFORD! I'LL ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS ON YOUR MIND!

I'M A FRIEND OF HALFORD'S AND I THOUGHT I'D LOOK HIM OR HIS SON UP!

YOU'RE LOOKIN' IN THE WRONG PLACE! NOW MAKE YOURSELF SCARCE!

NOTHING RUBS ME HARDER THAN AN HOMBRE WITH GRAVEL IN HIS VOICE!

I'VE HANDLED WINDBAGS LIKE YOU BEFORE!

MAKE YOUR MOVE, MISTER!

TREACHERY STRUCK FROM BEHIND...

BUT AS IT DID...

FARO HASKINS PAUSED A SECOND, AND IN THAT SPLIT MOMENT, *THE RAWHIDE KID* ACTED!

NICE SHOOTIN', STRANGER!

HASKINS, I HEARD THIS STRANGER MENTION MY FATHER'S NAME! WHY SHOULD THAT BE A SIGNAL FOR ROUGH PLAY?

I DON'T LIKE HOMBRES ASKIN' QUESTIONS IN MY PLACE!

YOU AND YOUR THUGS BEAT FLINT HALFORD WHEN HE CAME HERE LOOKING FOR HIS SON!

TALK STRAIGHT, HASKINS! IS THAT RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT! I GOT WHAT I WANT OUT OF YOU, HALFORD! CLEAR OFF!

HASKINS, I GOT A HUNCH WE'LL BE BACK! WAIT FOR US!

MY BOYS GOT YA COVERED!

WE'LL BE WAITIN'!

I'LL BE COUNTIN' ON IT!

WHERE DO *YOU* FIT INTO THIS PICTURE, JIM? YOU'VE BROKEN YOUR FATHER'S HEART!

I'LL MAKE IT UP TO HIM SOMEHOW! I LOST THE RANCH TO HASKINS IN A CARD GAME! BUT I'VE BEEN BUYING IT BACK BY WORKING FOR HIM!

YOU MEAN YOU WORKED FOR A MAN LIKE HASKINS?

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I KNEW HIS GAMES WERE CROOKED! I'VE BEEN COLLECTING EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM FOR THE MARSHAL!

I COULDN'T TELL ANYONE... NOT EVEN DAD! IF I HAD KNOWN WHAT THEY DID TO DAD, I'D HAVE BLOWN THAT PLACE SKY HIGH!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! WE CAN CLEAN HOUSE IF WE WORK THIS RIGHT!

FARO HASKINS WAITED A LONG TIME, AND WHEN HE FELT DANGER WAS PAST...

THOSE VARMINTS WON'T SHOW THEIR FACES NOW! TELL ALL THE BOYS TO RELAX!

MEANWHILE...

ALL RIGHT! WE KNOW HASKINS IS IN HIS OFFICE! CLEAR A PATH!

HERE SHE GOES!

THE GUNPOWDER TRAILED BLACK AND OMINOUS BEHIND THE RUMBLING POWDER KEG, AS *THE RAWHIDE KID* IGNITED THE TRAIL...

COME ON OUT, HASKINS, OR WE'LL FLUSH YOU OUT LIKE A NEST OF RATTLERS!

IT'S A POWDER KEG!

AND ITS TRAIL IS LIT AN' HEADING THIS WAY!

YOU'VE PLAYED YOUR LAST CROOKED GAME IN HERE, HASKINS! THE MARSHALL WILL HANDLE YOU NOW!

HASKINS GAMBLING HALL

YOUR DAD WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR ABOUT THIS, JIM!

I COULDN'T HAVE MADE THE BREAK WITHOUT YOUR HELP, KID!

WE'D BETTER GET THESE BADHATS BACK OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THAT KEG GOES OFF!

THAT'S THE END OF HASKINS' CROOKED GAMBLING HALL!

AND GOOD RIDDANCE!

THE END

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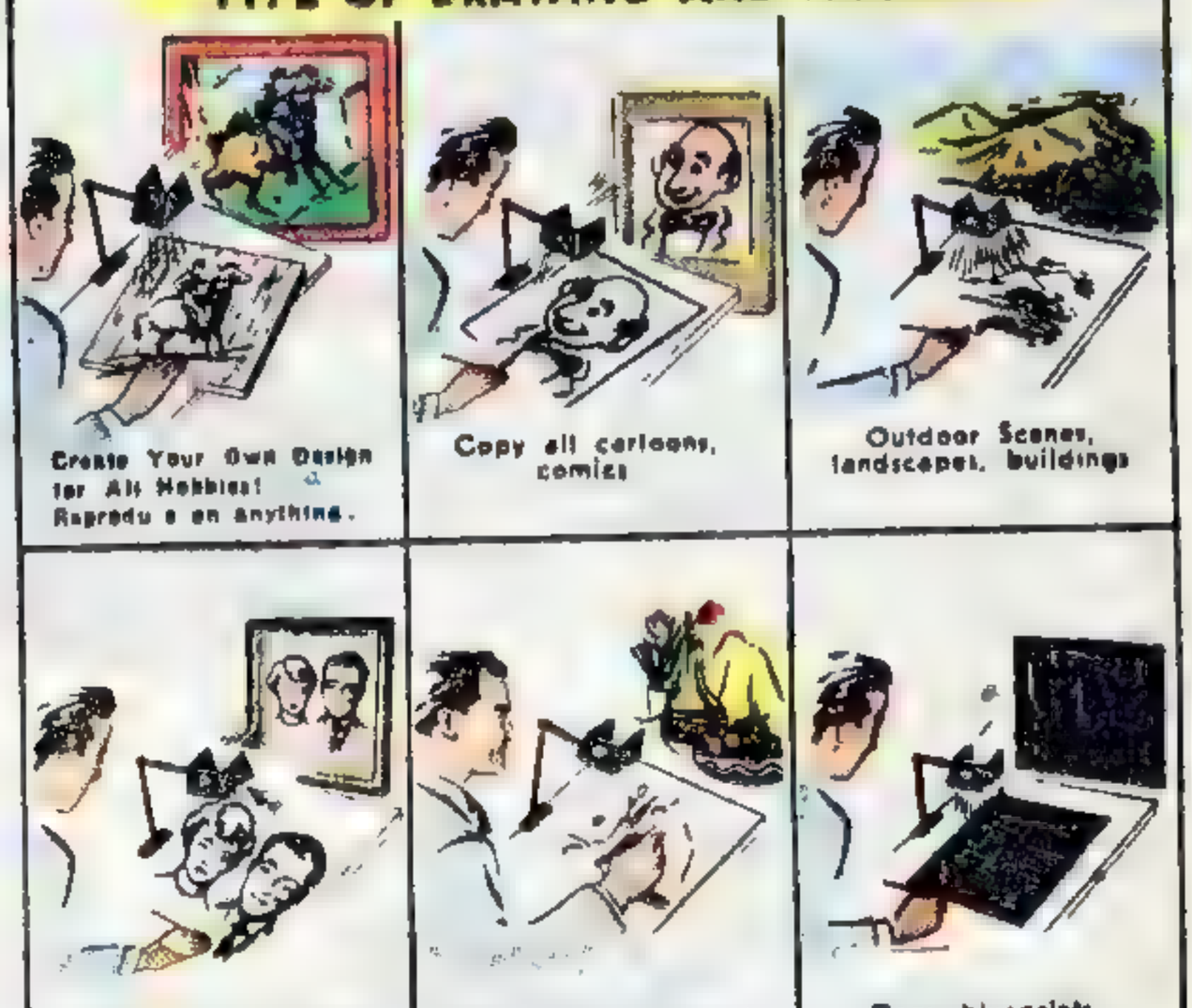

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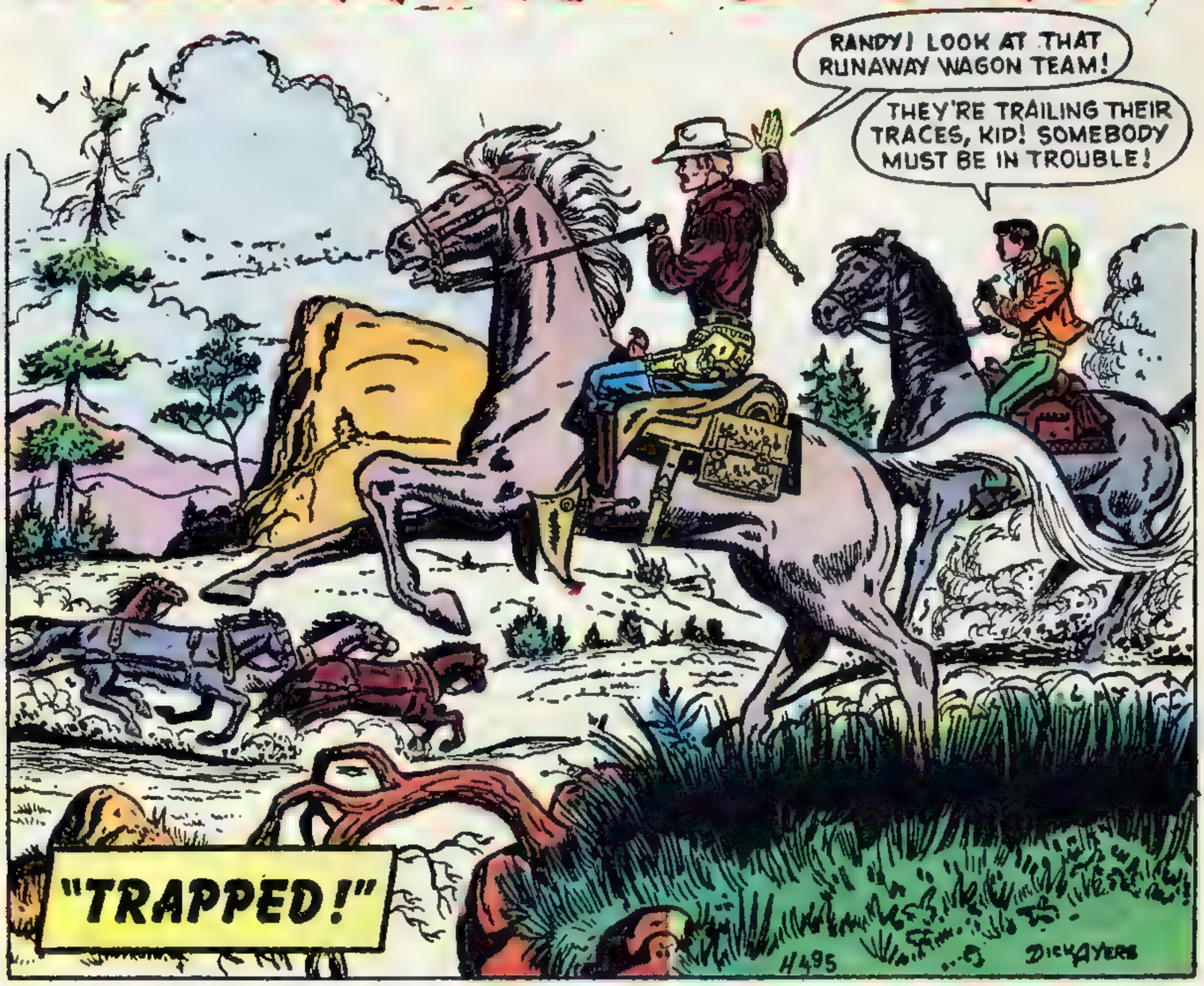
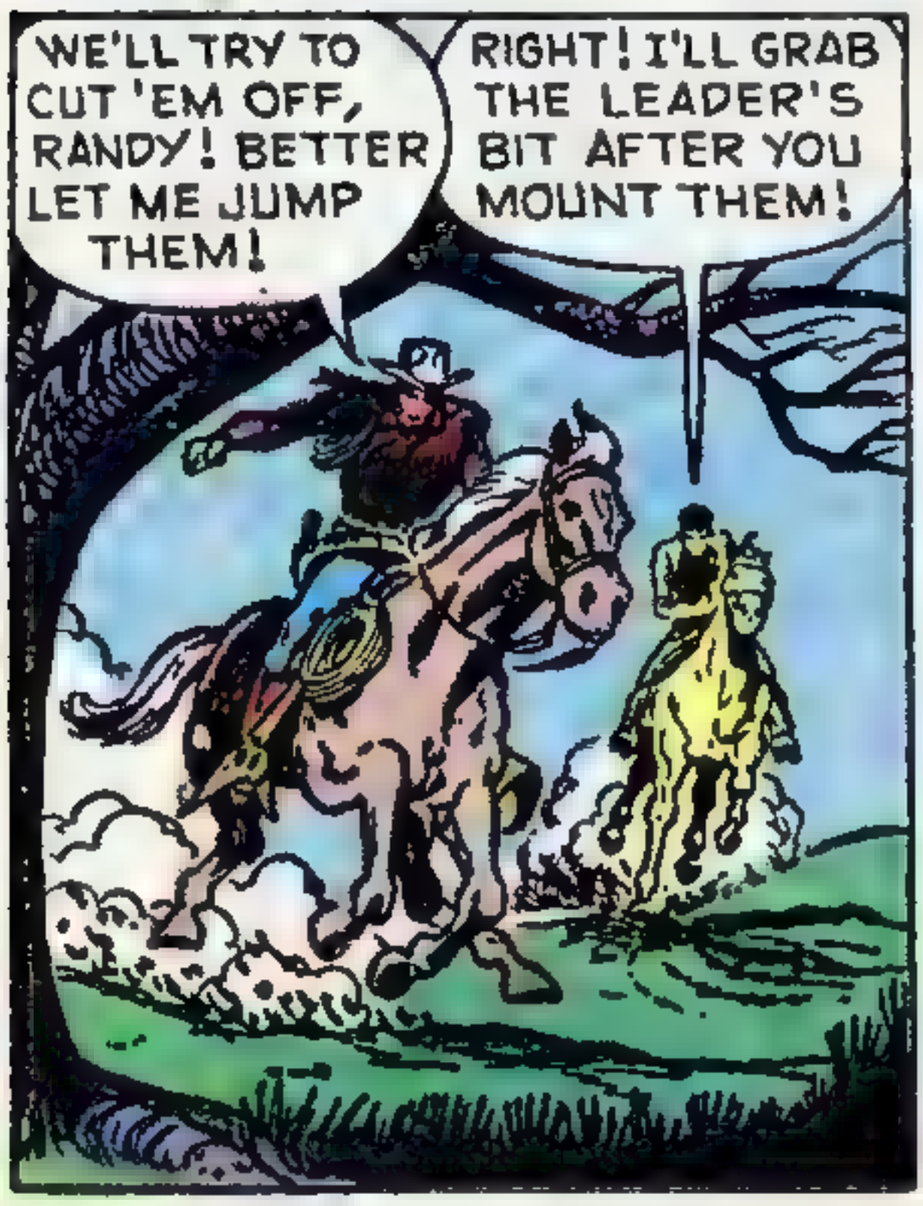
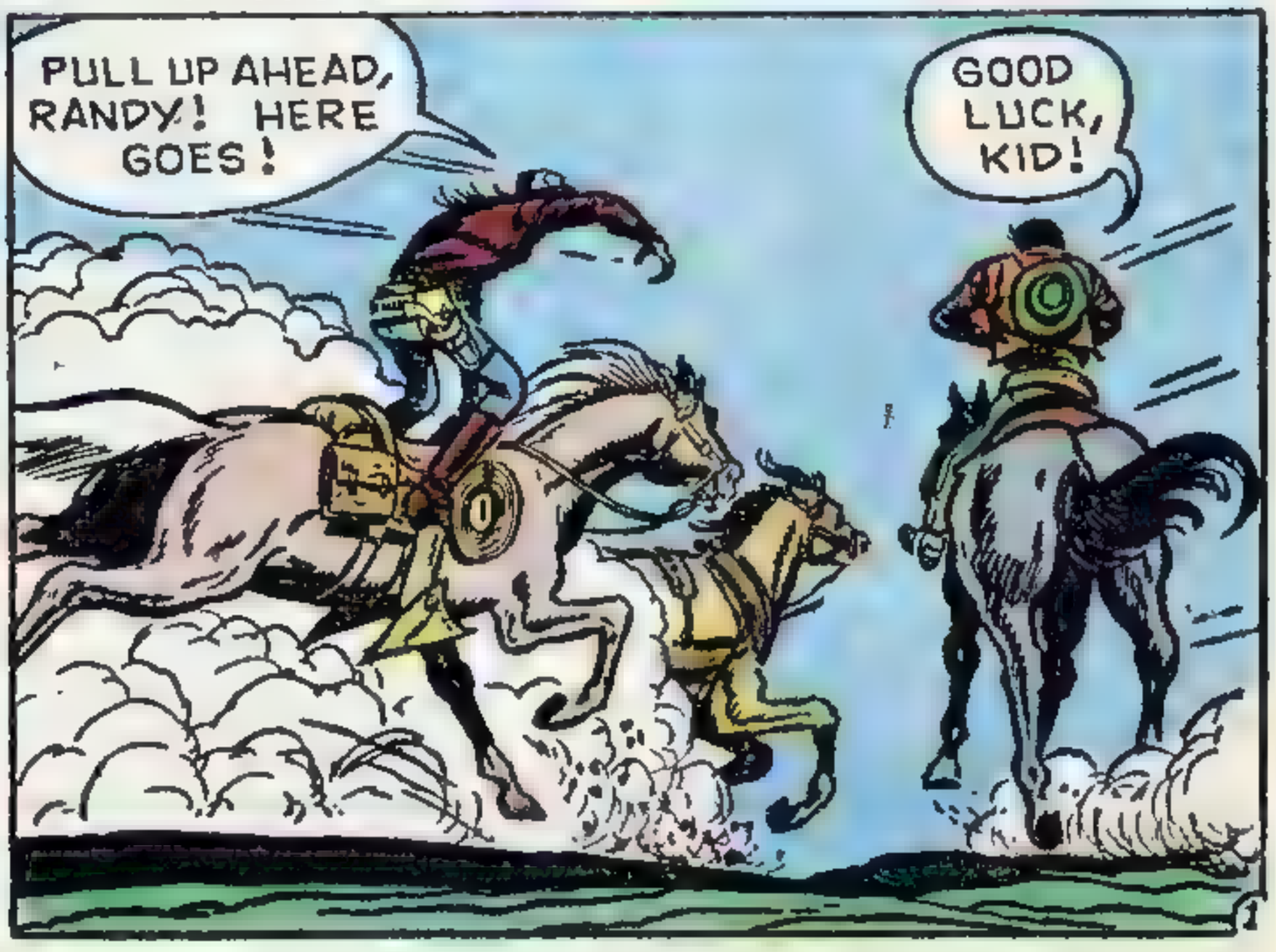
THE RAWHIDE KID


RANDY! LOOK AT THAT RUNAWAY WAGON TEAM!
THEY'RE TRAILING THEIR TRACES, KID! SOMEBODY MUST BE IN TROUBLE!
"TRAPPED!"
H495
DICKAYERS



MAN AND BOY THUNDERED UP CLOSE TO THE STAMPEDING TEAM IN A DESPERATE EFFORT TO HALT THEM ...



I'VE GOT THE BIT, KID!

HANG ON, RANDY! NOW... HAUL 'EM BACK HARD!

THE TEAM BALKED AND FOUGHT, BUT THE PRESSURES WERE TOO HARD TO RESIST...

WHOAAA! EASY NOW!

WONDER WHAT MADE THIS TEAM BOLT? WE'D BETTER BACKTRACK THEN- TO THE WAGON THEY WERE PULLING!

THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD! I'LL TAKE 'EM IN TOW!

FOUR MILES BACK ON THE TRAIL LAY EVIDENCE OF A STARK DRAMA...

HERE'S THE ANSWER, RANDY... A BUSHWHACKED GOVERNMENT SUPPLY TRAIN! TIE UP THE HORSES! I'LL LOOK AT THE DRIVER!

BUSHWHACKED... G-GOT TO GET HELP! FORT SLATER!

WE'LL GET YOU THERE, AMIGO! RANDY, HITCH THE TEAM TO THE WAGON! I'LL TRY TO TURN HER RIGHTSIDE UP!

HERE SHE COMES! KEEP 'EM TUGGING, RANDY!

PULL, YOU CAYUSES! THROW SOME WEIGHT INTO IT!

TWO HOURS LATER, IN FORT SLATER...

I MET THE ESCORT BACK AT BLACKSNAKE MESA... THREE OF 'EM! WHEN THE ATTACK STARTED, THEM THREE RENEGADES HELPED BUSHWHACK THE WAGON!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THEY WERE THREE OF OUR MOST LOYAL MEN!

BULLETIN

THAT WAGON WAS LOADED WITH AMMUNITION, ARMS AND SUPPLIES! IT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING,,, MARAUDERS TO TERRORIZE THE COUNTRYSIDE!

,,, OR TO WHIP UP AN INDIAN UPRISING! THOSE SUPPLIES MUST BE RECOVERED!

THE ESCORT JUST SHOWED UP, SIR!

BRING THEM IN!

THEY BUSHWHACKED US AND TOOK OUR UNIFORMS, SIR! THEY JOINED THE WAGON TRAIN PRETENDING TO BE US!

ORDER TWO COMPANIES TO SCOUT THE AREA AT ONCE!

CAN WE HELP THE TROOPS, KID?

WE CAN TRY, RANDY! MAYBE WE CAN PICK UP THE GANG'S TRAIL WHERE THEY BUSHWHACKED THE WAGON TRAIN!

LATER ,,,

I CAN'T FIND MUCH ON THIS HARD GROUND, KID!

HERE IT IS! THEY LOADED THE SUPPLIES ON HORSES AND HEADED NORTH INTO THE HILLS! COME ON!

A FEW HOURS LATER, HIGH UP IN THE REACHES OF A WILD MOUNTAINSIDE ,,,

RANDY, GET YOUR WINCHESTER AND COVER ME! I'M GOING TO SNEAK DOWN YONDER AND CHECK THAT CABIN!

SIGNAL TO ME IF IT'S ALL CLEAR!

NOTHING STIRRING SO FAR! I HOPE HE MAKES IT!

MUST BE OKAY! KID WANTS ME TO COME DOWN!

THIS IS IT, RANDY... ENOUGH STUFF HERE TO START A WAR! NEXT PROBLEM IS TO NOTIFY THE FORT!

I CAN GET TO THE FORT, KID! YOU BETTER STAY HERE UNTIL I GET BACK!

SUDDENLY... DOWN! THOSE BUSHWHACKERS ARE BACK! THEY MUST HAVE SEEN OUR HORSES! LAY LOW WHILE I TAKE A LOOK!

WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT, RANDY! SEE IF YOU CAN KICK OPEN SOME OF THOSE RIFLE AND AMMO BOXES!

YOU BET! WE HAVE ENOUGH HERE TO HOLD OFF AN ARMY!

MUST BE THREE OR FOUR OF 'EM IN THERE!

WE AIN'T GOIN' TO GET CLOSE IF THEY SHOOT LIKE THIS! BETTER TELL THE BOSS TO THINK TWICE BEFORE HE RUSHES 'EM!

THEY GOT US TREED!

THAT SHACK IS LOADED WITH POWDER! ONE OF OUR SHOTS IS SURE TO SET OFF A BLAST! TELL THE BOYS TO KEEP FIRING!

KEEP 'EM HONEST, RANDY! I'VE GOT TO SOAK THOSE POWDER KEGS IN WATER BEFORE A SLUG HITS THEM!

THEY AREN'T SHOWING THEIR NOSES, KID! WE CAN HOLD 'EM FOREVER!

THE POWDER'S SAFE, BUT A BULLET MIGHT SET OFF THESE AMMO CASES, TOO! WE'RE IN A TOUGH SPOT, BUT I DON'T WANT RANDY TO KNOW IT!

MEANWHILE, ON THE HILLSIDE ...

SHORTY AND MILLER CAN KEEP 'EM BUSY! WE'LL SNEAK AROUND THE REAR AND CLIMB DOWN THE CHIMNEY!

I GOT NO HANKERIN' TO GET ANY CLOSER! THEM VARMINTS SHOOT TOO GOOD!

SOMETHING'S UP, KID! THERE'S ONLY TWO OF 'EM FIRING!

IT'S A RUSE! LET THEM MAKE THEIR PLAY! WE'LL BE READY!

THEY'RE ON THE ROOF, RANDY! STAY AT THE WINDOW! I'LL HAVE A SURPRISE WAITING FOR THEM!

THE RAWHIDE KID WORKED SWIFTLY, FUSING A LARGE BOX OF AMMO WITH CUNNING SKILL.

I'LL JAM IT UP INTO THE STACK AND HOPE IT WORKS!

AMMO .45

THE AMMUNITION EXPLODED WITH A SERIES OF ROARS THAT SHOOK THE RAFTERS OF THE LITTLE SHACK!

THEY HAD TO JUMP OFF THE ROOF! WE AIN'T GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE HOMBRES!

I'M QUITTIN'!

LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED THE FUN!

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, SIR! WE WASTED SOME BLACK POWDER AND AMMO, BUT IT WAS A GLORIOUS SHOW ANYWAY!

THE END

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9. It's A Sin To Tell A Lie
10. Hummingbird
11. House of Blue Lights
12. Unchained Melody
13. Maybellene
14. Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White
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16. Wake The Town And Tell The People
17. Domani
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9. Yellow Roses
10. It's A Lovely World
11. The Kentuckian Song
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

TEACHER'S TRAIL

IT was a bright and sunlit morning.

Over the great expanse of Wentworth County, a soft, zephyr-like breeze rippled its way, gently stirring the grazing fodder that stretched from the low Manitee Mountains in the east to the Indian River in the west. Herds of cattle, most of them longhorns, coursed aimlessly back and forth on the hundreds of thousands of acres of forage land, grazing happily on the lush and tender feed-grass.

From the direction of Pineville, the county seat, came the loud, busy bustle of a prosperous business day filled with work and smiles. Blacksmiths used hammers at their forges, wranglers whistled cowboy laments round the roping corrals. Birds warbled in the branches of the cottonwoods. It was plain that all of Wentworth was happy.

All of it, that is, except three boys, one thirteen, the other two, twelve years of age.

They sat in the third row of the grade schoolhouse on the outskirts of Pineville and heard their teacher, old Miss Bancroft, give them the bad news. The news was directed to the whole class, of course. But, of the twenty-five pupils, Johnny Patton, Hank Greyman and Miles Willet, seemed to be taking it the hardest.

Miss Bancroft's eyes twinkled with just a suspicion of moisture. She'd always known the pupils liked her, but she also knew the time always had to come when even old friends part. Of course the parting would be merely technical. After forty years of service to the town as schoolteacher, she was going to retire. From the day after her retirement she planned to live at her brother's Big B ranch a few miles out of town. Here, as she always said, humorously, she'd spend the rest of her life making cookies.

"Friday will be my last day with you," she told the pupils, glancing down at them through her gold-rimmed bi-focals. She had thoughtfully chosen the moment before recess to announce the news. Almost anything before a recess would surely be swallowed up in the games played on the grassy lawn before the school. "I'm not really going away," she chuckled. "Any of you kids can drop by any time at the Big B and sample some of my cookies."

Then she paused, knowing she was coming to the difficult part.

"I suppose you're all interested in just who is going to take my place."

A rustle told her she was right. "Will it be Miss Susie, teacher?" a little girl asked.

Miss Bancroft shook her head. "Miss Susie," she said, "is going to be secretary to the president of the Cattlemen's Bank."

There was a general murmuring, indicating a slight sense of uneasiness. Everybody had known Miss Bancroft would retire someday, and everybody had expected Miss Susie to replace her. Everybody also liked Miss Susie. But there was nobody else in town except Miss Susie to take Miss Bancroft's place. And that could only mean a stranger!

Miss Bancroft sized up the situation at a glance. There was a mysterious gleam in her eye when she said, "Your new teacher will be Miss Mary Morley. She comes from San Francisco."

The class did not seem visibly relieved. In fact, the faces of Johnny, Hank and Miles fell further. They discussed the matter glumly, riding home to their fathers' spreads.

"San Francisco!" Johnny Patton muttered. "Why, that's nothing but a big, old, crowded city. What's it got to do with Pineville and Wentworth County?"

"Nice thing about Miss Bancroft, she knew so much about the county," Miles Willet said. "I liked it when she'd take time off and tell us stories about old times in Pineville."

Hank Greyman nodded in agreement.

"I'll bet the new teacher is a real city slicker," he said darkly.

Johnny heaved a sigh.

"Well, I'm not gonna be liking the new teacher . . . not anything at all the way I like Miss Bancroft!" he announced.

There was silence for a moment. Then Miles said, "Maybe we ought to give her a chance, see what she's really like."

"What for?" Hank demanded. "She's 'city folks', isn't she? What's city folks got in common with us range folk?" He drew himself up with pride. "A Wentworth County man has something to be proud of. Plenty of exciting things hap-

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

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THE COWARD!

by Stan Lee & Al Williamson

N437

WHAT'S WRONG, SILBY... YUH LOOK *SCARED!*

SURE I'M SCARED... HAVEN'T YUH HEARD? THE CAVALRY IS LEAVING TOWN! WE'RE GONNA BE AT THE MERCY OF THE NAVAJOS!

NOT EXACTLY! WE GOT A SHERIFF, 4 DEPUTIES, AND ABOUT 40 ABLE-BODIED, WELL-ARMED MEN IN TOWN! WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

BUT THERE ARE *HUNDREDS OF NAVAJOS!* WE'LL ALL BE WIPED OUT!

SILBY, I WANNA TELL YUH SOMETHING! YOU'RE A SPINELESS COWARD! I DON'T KNOW WHY YUH EVER LEFT THE EAST!

YUH CAN CALL ME WHAT YOU WANT... BUT I'M GONNA HANG ONTO MY SCALP! NO NAVAJO IS GONNA GET IT!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MARTHA, PACK YOUR THINGS! WE'RE LEAVING TOWN!

BUT WE CAN'T, HENRY... I'M SICK! THE DOCTOR TOLD ME NOT TO TRAVEL!

ALL RIGHT, IF YUH WON'T COME, I'LL GO WITHOUT YOU!

YOU'RE SCARED, HENRY... SCARED OF THE NAVAJOS! THIS TOWN NEEDS EVERY MAN WHO CAN FIRE A GUN! YOU CAN'T DESERT NOW!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE TOWN... OR YOU! I'M GONNA SAVE MYSELF!

I'VE KNOWN YOU WERE NO GOOD FOR A LONG TIME NOW! ALL I CAN SAY IS, GOOD RIDDANCE!

I'LL HEAD FOR THE COUNTY SEAT... THERE'S A COMPANY OF TROOPS THERE! THE NAVAJOS WOULDN'T DARE ATTACK IT!

SILBY... WAIT... WE NEED YOU HERE!

OUTA MY WAY!

LET HIM GO! WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT THAT YELLOW COWARD!

RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT, CLEM!

GOTTA RIDE HARD... ONLY A FEW HOURS TILL DARKNESS!

BUT NO MAN CAN PREDICT WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE! AT THAT VERY MOMENT, SILBY'S HORSE TRIPPED IN A GOPHER HOLE, AND...

MY LEG... IT'S BROKEN... COME BACK... COME BACK... I CAN'T MOVE!

TIMBER WOLVES! THEY'RE COMING TOWARD ME AND I LEFT MY SHOTGUN ON MY SADDLE... HELP! HELP!

HELP...

HENRY SILBY WAS NEVER SEEN OR HEARD OF AGAIN... AND NONE MOURNED OR MISSED HIM! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE TOWN HE FLED FROM? WAS IT RAVAGED BY NAVAJOS AFTER THE TROOPS LEFT?

NO... THAT'S WHY THE TROOPS LEFT! BECAUSE A PEACE TREATY HAD BEEN SIGNED BETWEEN RED-MAN AND WHITE... AND THE INDIAN WAR WAS OVER! TOO BAD HENRY SILBY... THE COWARD, DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

THE END

CONTINUED

pened here in Pineville years ago."

Shaking their heads regretfully, all three boys separated at the fork in the Pineville road and went off to their own homes.

Friday came and went, with Miss Bancroft taking her official departure at a little luncheon sponsored by her friends and the County's Board of Education. The week end passed and all the pupils made ready to go to school on Monday morning.

At seven-thirty, Johnny Patton left his room, taking one last fond look at the walls hung with mementoes of the history of Pineville . . . old election buttons, newspaper clippings, old posters and things of the same sort.

"Don't take it so hard, son," his father said at breakfast. "I've heard a good deal about Miss Morley, and everyone says she's a very pleasant person."

"Never be as good a teacher as Miss Bancroft," Johnny insisted stoutly. He was still of the same frame of mind when he met his two friends at the forks and proceeded to school.

Miss Morley turned out to be a pleasant-faced woman, of about forty, with a merry twinkle in her eye and an air of briskness. The trio had settled glumly in their seats and class had opened. She suddenly startled them by announcing a long lunch hour that day.

"What kind of special day is it, Miss Morley?" Johnny asked.

"You mean you don't know that this is the birthday of Tate Hakins, Pineville's third Sheriff?" she asked. "Why, he was the one who saved the town from an attack of owlhoots in '77!"

"No, I didn't know that," Johnny said.

"Why, I suppose you've never even heard of Rod Larrup, Pineville's sixth mayor . . . the one who got the North and Western to run their line here!" she asked.

Johnny swallowed hard. "Reckon I haven't," he said in a small voice.

"Sit down, Johnny," Miss Morley said. "Seems to me you kids need a little more education in the history of your own town. From now on we'll devote some time, each week, to talking about the history of Wentworth County and Pineville!"

A warm feeling stole through Johnny Patton as he heard her words. He looked out of the side of his eye. Hank and Miles were smiling, and so was the whole class. Miss Morley was all right!

Miss Morley beamed . . . invisibly . . . at the beaming faces before her. Bless Miss Bancroft, she was thinking, for figuring out a way to make her popular right off with the whole class . . . and particularly with the Three Patriots of Wentworth County. As a matter of fact, she *did* believe in teaching local history. Bless Miss Bancroft again, she fervently sighed to herself. For it had been Miss Bancroft who had suggested that she spend a whole week boning up on the old files of the Pineville Weekly Rancher before coming to class on Monday!

THE END H-751

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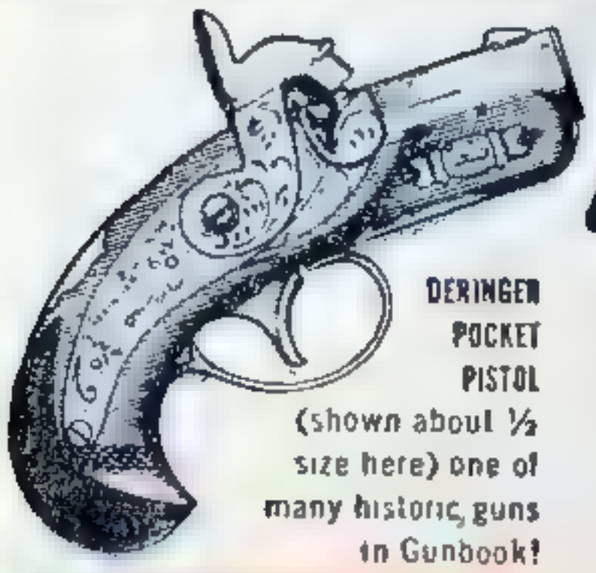

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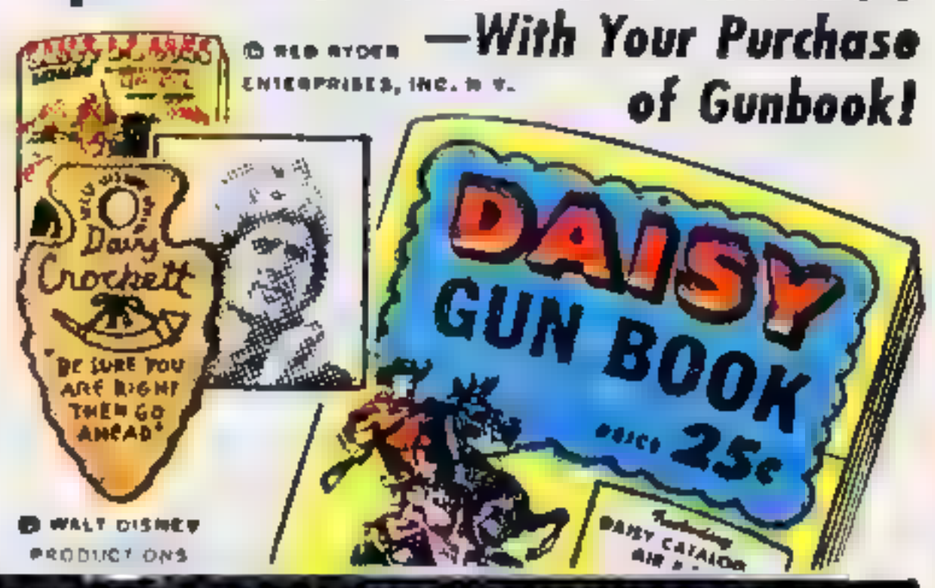

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KID! YOU BETTER HURRY! RANDY'S MIGHTY SICK!

THAT'S RIGHT, KID! HE'S DOWN AT DOC SAWYER'S RIGHT NOW AN' I RECKON HE NEEDS YOU BAD!

DICK AYERS H-496

WHAT HAPPENED TO RANDY? WERE YOU BOYS WITH HIM?

NO, SIR! WE FOUND HIM LAYIN' NEAR THE OLD WELL AN' CALLED FOR HELP RIGHT AWAY!

"GOLD STRIKE!"

THE RAWHIDE KID SPURRED HIS HORSE ON...

MOVE FAST, APACHE! RANDY NEEDS US!

I GOT HERE AS SOON AS I COULD, DOC! HOW'S THE BOY?

NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, KID! HE'S SUFFERING WITH AN AILMENT COMMON TO BOYS HIS AGE! COME ON IN!

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH HIM, DOC?

WELL, WHEN *I* WAS A BOY, THEY CALLED IT THE SWEET TOOTH BLUES ... SAME SONG A LAD SINGS WHEN HE'S STUFFED FULL OF GREEN APPLES!

THERE HE IS, NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR AND AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF LICORICE AND MOLASSES CANDY!

HOWDY, K-KID! I'M S-SORRY I CAUSED ALL THIS TROUBLE!

CANDY? WHERE'D YOU GET IT ALL, RANDY?

IT'S A MIGHTY STRANGE STORY, KID, BUT AS I UNDERSTAND IT THE BOY LEFT A TRAIL OF GOLD NUGGETS BEHIND HIM ALL THROUGH TOWN!

I RECKON DOC'S RIGHT, KID! I FOUND A MESS OF NUGGETS, AN' THEN I GOT A POWERFUL HANKERIN' FOR SWEETS!

FOLLOWED BY A STOMACH ACHE!

HERE'S SOME OF THEM, KID, AND THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM!

GOOD GRIEF! THESE ARE PURE NUGGETS! WHERE'D YOU FIND THEM, RANDY?

WELL, I WAS UP NEAR WHERE SNAKE CREEK RUNS INTO ...

WAIT A MINUTE, RANDY!

THE RAWHIDE KID'S GUNS FLICKED OUT AND ROARED WITH DEAFENING ANGER ...

HE'S GONE! TOO BAD YOU GAVE HIM AS MUCH OF A CLUE AS YOU DID, RANDY!

GOSH, I DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY WAS EAVESDROPPING!

DOC, DO YOU THINK RANDY CAN DO ANY RIDING? I'D LIKE TO HEAD FOR THAT SPOT AND STAKE A CLAIM!

NO REASON WHY HE CAN'T, KID! HE MAY BE A LITTLE WEAK, BUT A RIDE WON'T HURT HIM ANY!

AN HOUR LATER ...

THEY WERE ALL OVER THE PLACE NEAR THE FORD THAT CROSSES THE STREAM! I JUST TOOK A HANDFUL BECAUSE I DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE REAL!

THEY WERE REAL, ALL RIGHT!

YOU THINK SOMEONE'S FOLLOWING US?

I *KNOW* SOMEONE IS! DON'T LOOK BACK! KEEP STRAIGHT AHEAD AND LISTEN HARD!

AROUND THE BEND YONDER, THE TRAIL FORKS OFF! YOU GET AROUND AND RIDE HARD DOWN THE LEFT FORK! I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER!

RIGHT!

THE MINUTES TICKED BY AS THE RAWHIDE KID WAITED IN AMBUSH ~

BAIT BALLAM, ONE OF TOADY GREGG'S HIRED HANDS! THIS MEANS GREGG KNOWS ABOUT RANDY'S FIND!

THE KID DROPPED DOWN NOISELESSLY, LIKE A BIG CAT...

HEY!

END OF THE TRAIL, BALLAM!

TALK FAST, BALLAM! ARE YOU STILL DRAWING RUSTLER'S WAGES FROM THAT BUZZARD, GREGG?

I'M ON MY OWN! I FIGGERED I'D GET SOME OF THAT LOOSE GOLD YOU WERE TALKIN' ABOUT!

THIS IS ONE CLAIM WE'RE STAKING WITHOUT OUTSIDE HELP! I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU PEGGED TILL WE'RE DONE!

SOON...

IT'S RIGHT UP THERE, KID!

HMMM, THAT SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE NUGGET COUNTRY TO ME! MAYBE PANNING, BUT NOT NUGGETS! WELL, LET'S GO!

MINUTES LATER...

LOOK AT 'EM ALL, KID! THEY'RE SCATTERED AROUND LIKE MARBLES!

AND THAT'S WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT THIS! RANDY, THESE NUGGETS WERE SPILLED HERE BY SOMEONE! *IT ISN'T A REAL STRIKE!*

WHEEL AN' FREEZE!

I FIGURED *YOU* HAD A HAND IN THIS, GREGG! I CAN EVEN GUESS WHERE YOU FIT INTO IT!

IT'LL BE YOUR LAST GUESS, SO MAKE IT GOOD!

YOU TRIED TO DRY-GULCH THE PONY EXPRESS RIDER! HE OUTWITTED YOU BY DUMPING THESE NUGGETS OUT OF HIS POUCH!

WAL, JINGLE MY SPURS, IF YOU AIN'T RIGHT! THE RIDER OUTWITTED US, BUT *WE'LL* COLLECT THE NUGGETS! HAW HAW HAW!

THE KID MOVED FAST! IN ONE MOTION, HE HURLED RANDY TO THE GROUND AND SAFETY WHILE HE FILLED HIS HANDS WITH SIX-GUN THUNDER...

GRAB THEIR HARDWARE, RANDY! I'LL KEEP 'EM BUSY A SPELL!

I'LL GET THEM, KID!

NOW GET TO WORK! I WANT EVERY NUGGET PICKED UP AND STACKED NEATLY! GET ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES SO YOU DON'T MISS ANYTHING!

HEADS DOWN AND KEEP BUSY, BOYS! KID, YOU KNOW— I'VE SEEN MULES GIVE BETTER TEAMWORK!

NOW DON'T INSULT MULES, RANDY!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A WORK BEE GOING, KID! THERE'S A REWARD FOR THE CAPTURE OF THESE BUZZARDS!

THOSE ARE THE BUSHWHACKERS WHO MADE ME SCATTER MY PAYLOAD! LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOT MOST OF IT GATHERED UP!

ABOUT THAT REWARD, MARSHAL! MY YOUNG PARDNER HERE HAS ALREADY CLAIMED HIS SHARE... IN LICORICE AND MOLASSES CANDY!

WHY, THAT'S FINE! DOC SAWYER SAID HE WAS PREPARED FOR A RASH OF STOMACH ACHES IF A CERTAIN PARTY STAKED A CLAIM! I'LL TELL HIM TO RELAX!

THE END

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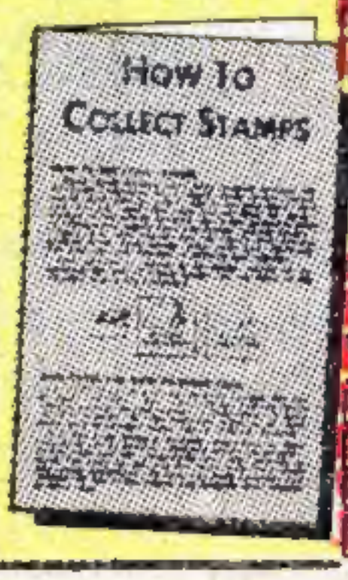

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